Josiah H. Benton Fd.
Apr. 21, 1939
D

Old Saw Mills, near
Abercorn, 1st Feby. 1782

Dear Sir

I was favoured with your very polite letter of the 21st Ultimo. I wish to merit the good opinion you express of my Military Capacity, — but am sorry to find the resourses of this State so much exhausted in every part. — the Enemy have consumed all the forage and Provisions in the vicinity of Savannah, and very little has yet been supplied from any other Quarter; notwithstanding the most pressing requisitions: however I hope by this period, proper measures are taken for the purpose

I have the pleasure to Inform your Honor, that on the 28th: Ultimo, 26 Indians, warriors, and 93 pack horses, with their packs fell into our hands; since which I have sent Major Habersham, with a Considerable Detatchment of Dragoons, and Volunteers

to Intercept —

the advance of 300 Choctaw Indians, and to endeavour to Capture, 100 pack horses, and their escort, loaded with ~~Provisions~~ Amunition, and presents, for the In=dians, who were but two days march in his front—

The Capture of those Indians, I hope will be attended with Capital, advantage to this Country; as their Intentions were hostile.— those taken, were prepared for action, and had every Insignia of War upon them; I am much obliged to Colonel McCoy for decoying them, until they were surrounded, and disarmed by the regular Dragoons, who they mistook for British.—

They are now at Ebenezer, where they are properly guarded, and treated with kindness.—

had we not better endeavour to make them our friends; and detatch them from the Enemy; than to bring on an inevitable War, by murdering those in our Power; will you please to give me your opinion, upon this Business.—

I am next to Inform you that Colonel Baker, & Colo. McCoy have returned home, with a small

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a small part of their Command — saying they had no authority over Volunteers; however the greatest part chearfully accompanied Major Habersham, upon his expedition, under Captains West & Carr, and I doubt not, but that they will render him essential service. —

I must again request, that the Militia, may be ordered to join me, with all possible dispatch, I wish that the assembly had seen their way clear, in opening a door for the reception of those deluded people, who were least obnoxious — It is a policy I mean to adopt. — but with your Concurrance and advice; upon the occasion. —

Interim I am your
Most obdt. Humble Servant
Anty Wayne

The Honble
Govr Martin

N.B. I beg leave to suggest the raising, of a Corps of Volunteers in addition to the Militia, to be Inlisted for a fixed period, under proper officers and subject to the Articles of War, for the Goverment of the army; the devestation and Insults committed by some late Volunteers Corps and parties, who occationally come

come into the lower part of the State, beggars all-
discription. —— & has been been very Injurious
to our cause

Genl. Wayne
1 Feby. 1782

~~British~~ War

Genl. Wayne
1 Feby 1782.

RW1159(2)